DESOLATION SOUND MARINE PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

March 2003

Approved by:

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Date: March 23/03

Desolation Sound Marine Provincial Park
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary roles** of Desolation Sound Marine Park are to protect significant underrepresented upland and marine natural values, to protect culturally significant First Nation resources and sites, and to provide destination marine recreation opportunities.

The park contains components of four ecosections and five biogeoclimatic subzones and protects a complex ecosystem in terrestrial and marine areas and in the terrestrial/marine interface. The Georgia Lowlands Ecosection has seen widespread settlement and development and there is limited opportunity to increase protection of the ecosection. Desolation Sound is the key area within the protected areas system for the protection of the Georgia Lowlands and contains 41.5 % of the protected lands found in this ecosection. As well, all of the biogeoclimatic subzones found within the park are underrepresented within the protected areas system. Desolation Sound is also the second largest contributor to the protection of the poorly represented Strait of Georgia marine ecosection.

Sliammon First Nation cultural sites occur throughout Desolation Sound Marine Park. The combination of cultural sites which occur within Desolation Sound, Roscoe Bay, Okeover Arm, Walsh Cove, and Copeland Islands marine parks provide a significant opportunity for protection of cultural values and possibly presentation of these values in cooperation with the First Nations. Sites are rich in value and very diverse in type – they range from shoreline harvest and settlement sites, to fish traps and marine harvest areas, and to burial and spiritual sites. The park protects a typical coast line settlement pattern for historical First Nation uses which has been largely displaced or disrupted elsewhere along the Sunshine Coast.

Desolation Sound provides a destination marine recreation opportunity for recreational boats, ocean kayaks, and canoeists. The park provides safe anchorages, varied scenery, a complex shoreline for exploration, and protected relatively warm waters. Desolation Sound provides a key role in drawing boaters to the northern end of Georgia Strait and encouraging boaters to visit both the park and adjacent areas.

Secondary Role

The **secondary role** of Desolation Sound Marine Park is to provide opportunities for scientific research, particularly in relation to the complex interaction of the different ecosections and biogeoclimatic subzones that are found within the park. These opportunities include both marine and upland values and will become increasingly important as adjacent areas see further development and settlement.

Tertiary Role

The **tertiary roles** of the park are to provide local recreation and tourism opportunities. The communities of Powell River and Lund utilize the park areas for boating, fishing and recreational shellfish harvesting. The park provides tourism opportunities for larger boat charters and rentals and for ocean kayak guiding and rentals.

Known Management Issues	Response
Lack of current management direction. Desolation Sound is a complex park – the existing management plan (1985) is now outdated.	Environmental Stewardship initiated a management planning process in the fall of 2002. Completion of the management plan is targeted for late-2003. The management plan, when completed, will replace this Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan.
Okeover Inlet is a site of conflict over potential water quality impacts from recreation, industry and upland users. High water quality is essential for the existing aquaculture industry. Concerns have been raised regarding marine pollution from pleasure craft and from upland camping activities.	Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management is undertaking an Integrated Coastal Plan to resolve the conflicts. Environmental Stewardship will assist and participate in the planning process. As well, facilities and activities within Desolation Sound Marine Park will be monitored to ensure negative water quality impacts from the park are not occurring. As necessary, corrective actions will be implemented. Environmental Stewardship will work actively with the Federal government in closing anchorages within the park to dumping of sewage from pleasure craft.
Disturbance of archaeological sites by recreation users.	Archaeological sites have been identified and are now being monitored. As needed, interim measures will be taken to prevent impacts. These will include managing commercial kayak activities through park use permits. The upcoming management plan will identify long-term protection measures for the sites.
Upland impacts from recreation use. Soil and vegetation impacts are occurring from upland recreation activities, particularly camping parties from ocean kayaking.	Environmental Stewardship has now completed an inventory of upland camping sites. Commercial kayak activities will be managed through park use permits. The upcoming management plan will identify long term development and

	protection measures for impacts from public and commercial recreation use.
Lack of inventory knowledge of natural values.	Environmental Stewardship will inventory values as resources allow. As well, cooperative opportunities will be explored with partners as is appropriate (e.g. ongoing marbled murrelet studies with Simon Fraser University).
Aquaculture operations within park foreshore areas. There are two aquaculture operations which were "grandfathered" when the park was established. This activity is not compatible with protection of the conservation values within the park.	Environmental Stewardship has been acquiring these operations as is feasible and the aquaculture tenures are not transferable to a new owner. This approach will continue and the aquaculture tenures will be removed as is feasible.
Docks from private inholdings within the park foreshore. There are several private inholdings surrounded by park land. These inholdings rely on boat access and use docks which are constructed with park foreshore. These docks are not authorized at this time by park use permit.	The upcoming management plan will identify a long term strategy to bring the docks into compliance with park use permit requirements. The strategy will be then be implemented.

Zoning

Natural Environment - All of the park is zoned Natural Environment. This zone will protect the significant upland, marine and cultural values, will allow marine and limited upland recreation opportunities, and will allow only limited levels of facility development. The focus of management actions in this zone will be to create a balance between resource protection, moderate levels of use, and recreation opportunities.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	☒	Includes four terrestrial ecosection components – Georgia Lowland (GEL), Outer Fiordland (OUF), Strait of Georgia (SOG), and Southern Pacific Ranges (SPR). Largest contributor in protected areas PA system (41.5%) for to the representation protection of the underrepresented Georgia Lowland Eecosection. A minor contributor to the representation of the OUF, SOG and SPR. Desolation Sound Marine Park contributes 26.38% to the representation of the Strait of Georgia *Marine* Ecosection (SOG) which is poorly protected at only 0.94%. Ranks 2nd out of 25 in terms of contribution.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☒	Includes five biogeoclimatic subzones – CWHdm, CWHvm1, CWHvm2, CWHxm1, and MHmm1. Largest contributor in protected areas system (28.5 %) of significantly underrepresented CWHxm1 subzone (only 2.07% protected) . Significant contributor (8.1%) to underrepresented CWHdm subzone (only 5.89% protected).
Special Feature	☒	Combination of foreshore, islets, shoreline, uplands and mountain range backdrop. Canopy kelp beds.
Rare/Endangered Values	☒	Marbled murrelets present in marine component of park. No other values identified at this time - inventory and background information on park values is limited. It is expected that due to the complexity of the biogeoclimatic subzones found within the park, that there are likely values which have not yet been identified.
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☒	Marbled murrelet research already being undertaken. Wide diversity of research opportunities are available including marine/uplands ecosystems and their interactions, resource inventory, and archaeology.

Recreation

Representation backcountry	☐	

destination	☒	Park is one of the primary marine destination parks for larger pleasure craft, kayakers, canoeists and small boaters. Park contains several anchorages, protected warm waters, and varied and spectacular marine scenic values.
travel corridor	☐	
local recreation	☒	Park sees significant local boat use, fishing and recreational shellfish harvesting.
Special Opportunities	☒	Desolation Sound is often combined with other adjacent park and non-park areas to form extensive and varied marine tours.
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☐	Significant terrestrial, marine and cultural interpretation opportunities.

Cultural Heritage

Representation	☒	Park area was very heavily used by Sliammon Nation. Many varied archaeological sites throughout the park – e.g. shore use areas, burial sites, canoe runs, pictographs. Area continues to be used for traditional and spiritual uses by Sliammon Nation. Park area contains significant post-contact remnants of early European history on the coast – e.g. early timber harvesting, settlement, orchards.
Special Feature	☐	

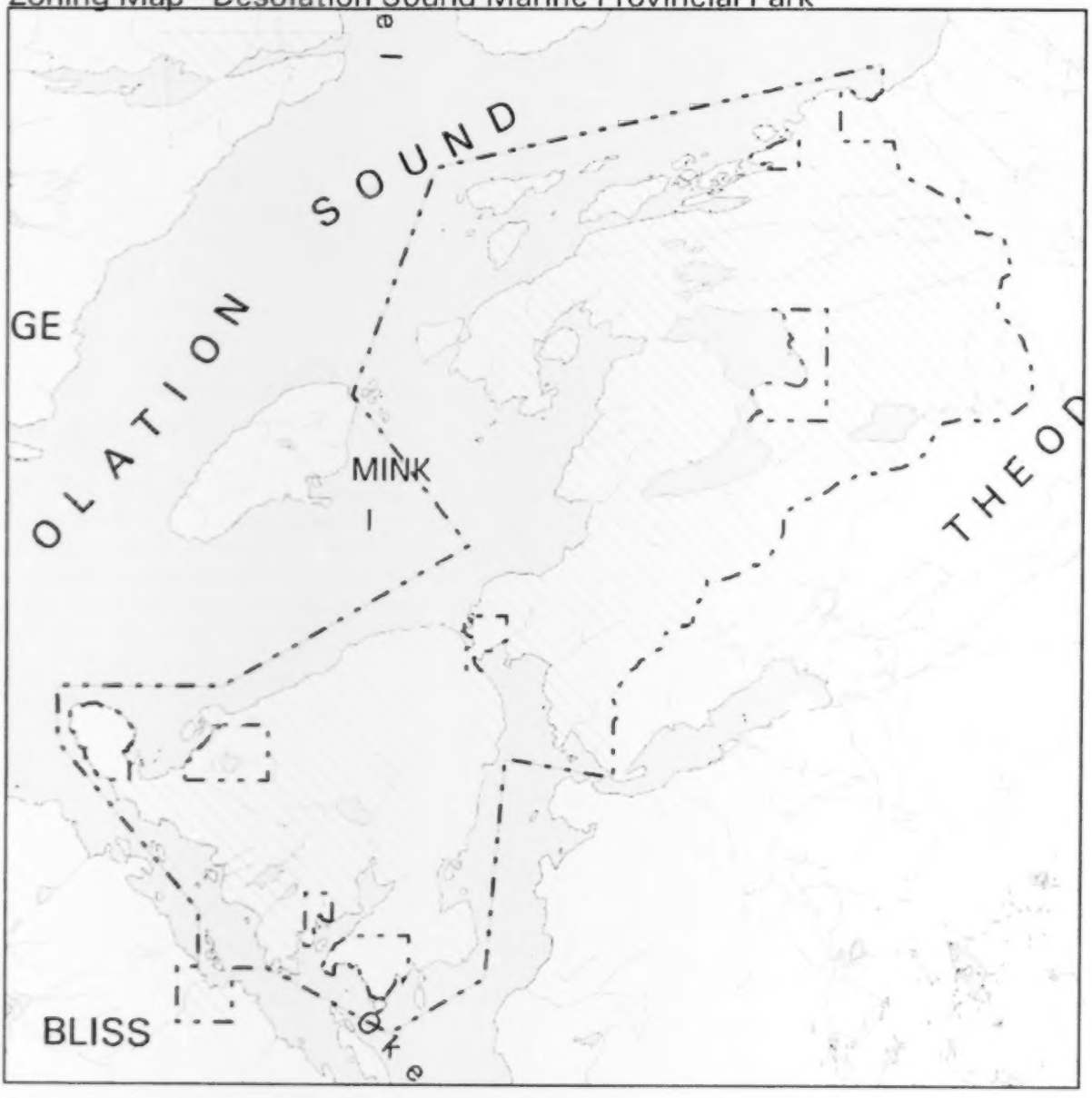
Other Management Considerations

Other Designations	☐	
Relationship to other PAs	☒	Desolation Sound provides a destination and a hub for marine recreationists – feeds use in adjacent protected areas and in nearby communities.
Co-operative Management Arrangements	☐	
Partnerships	☐	
Vulnerability	☒	Some archaeological sites vulnerable to disturbance.
Relationship to other Strategies	☒	Lower Mainland PAS

Area: 8449 ha

Date of establishment: April 17, 1973

Zoning Map - Desolation Sound Marine Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83

Natural Environment
Protected Area Boundary

0 2
km

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This is a visual representation only and should not be used for legal purposes.